

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 07298 291644Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 IO-13 OMB-01  
/092 W

-----301205Z 055005 /45

R 281532Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4507  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 7298

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR EG LY UR  
SUBJECT: MOTIVATION BEHIND SOVIET "MEMORANDUM" WARNING TO EGYPT

REF: CAIRO 7140 (NOTAL)

1. LOCAL AMERICAN JOURNALIST, FORMERLY BASED IN MOSCOW, WHO HAS EXCELLENT CONTACTS AMONG SOVIET AND EASTERN EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITIES IN CAIRO HAS TOLD US THAT HIS SOURCES VIRTUALLY UNANIMOUSLY BELIEVED, PRIOR TO, AND AFTER, EGYPTIAN PUBLICATION OF SOVIET "MEMORANDUM" WARNING GOE NOT TO ATTACK LIBYA, THAT CHANCES OF EGYPT LAUNCHING MILITARY ATTACK AGAINST LIBYA VIRTUALLY NIL. ALL OF JOURNALISTS' SOVIET/BLOC CONTACTS OPINED THAT EGYPTIAN BUILD-UP IN WESTERN DESERT SIMILAR TO BUILD-UP OF AUGUST 1976, AFTER WHICH QADHAFI BACKED DOWN DURING HIS SEPTEMBER 1 REVOLUTION DAY SPEECH.

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2. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS ALSO HEARD COMMENTS FROM SOVIET AND BLOC DIPLOMATS, MADE BEFORE AND AFTER PUBLICATION DEMARCHE, BELITTILING CHANCES OF EGYPTIAN INVASION OR ATTACK ON LIBYA. IF THIS IS PREVAILING SOVIET ATTITUDE, WARNING EGYPT AGAINST MOVE ON QADHAFI, APPEARS ON SURFACE UNNECESSARY. FURTHER TACTIC EMPLOYED ( REPRESENTATIONS IN VARIOUS CAPITALS) VIRTUALLY ENSURED BROAD ARAB AWARENESS SOVIET "PROTECTION" OF QADHAFI

WITH UNFASHIONABLE SUPERPOWER/CLIENT IMPLICATIONS. CERTAINLY,  
IF SOVIETS HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY CONCERNED WITH GOE ATTACK ON LIBYA,  
AMB POLYAKOV COULD HAVE DELIVERED LOW-KEY, FIRM WARNING PRIVATELY  
TO FAHMY.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY MOSCOW ASSESSMENT OF SOVIET  
MOTIVATION RE "MEMORANDUM" TACTIC. WE ASSUME THAT SOVIETS MUST  
HAVE KNOWN DEMARCHE LIKELY BECOME COMMON KNOWLEDGE.  
PERHAPS MOSCOW TRYING TO ENCOURAGE QADHAFI NOT TO BACK DOWN  
AGAIN TO EGYPTIAN PRESSURES A LA SEPTEMBER 1976?  
EILTS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, THREATS, COMBAT OPERATIONS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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